Statement-IV

Details of State-wise Release of funds during the last three years under Scheme of Boys Hostels for STs

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.75	58.47	92.63
2.	Assam	—	16.00	—
3.	Gujarat	39.23	16.44	—
4.	Kerala	20.00	20.00	—
5.	Daman & Diu	—	26.82	—
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.97	86.02	12.70
7.	Madhya Pradesh	39.28	16.90	—
8.	Manipur	10.11	—	—
9.	Meghalaya	9.80	11.00	13.75
10.	Orissa	29.40	36.00	46.62
11.	Rajasthan	36.75	—	—
12.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
13.	Tripura	18.38	29.17	38.38
14.	Uttar Pradesh	3.65	—	—
15.	West Bengal	26.41	—	115.92
16.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	45.00
	Total	269.72	306.82	365.00

Old age and Widow Pension Scheme in Assam

3442. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of old age and widow pension is continuing in Assam;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government plan to reintroduce it?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Steps taken to open the closed mines in Bihar

3443. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether 72 coalmines are lying closed in Bihar after the nationalisation of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar for reopening of the closed mines in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Central Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) In 1992, a Joint Inspection Team (JIT) was set up with the representatives of Government of Bihar and Coal India Limited to identify the closed mines in Bihar. The JIT identified 10 closed coal mines of Central Coalfields Limited and 5 closed coalmines of Eastern Coalfields Limited, which are not covered by either ongoing or future projects of CIL. The Government of Bihar had made a proposal that the

Government of India should permit leases to the Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation (BSMDC) to operate these mines. Of these 15 mines, only one mine fully satisfies the prescribed conditions relating to handing over coal mines to State Governments and prima facie, six other mines also satisfy such conditions. It has been decided by Government that, subject to observance of requisite formalities and procedures, these seven mines be operated by the Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation.

Findings of Gyan Prakash Committee

3444. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the main findings of the Gyan Prakash Committee which was set up to enquire into the reported irregularities in import and distribution of sugar during 1994-95;

(b) the measures Government have taken or intends to take on the basis of these findings; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to release Committee's report to the press?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The main recommendations of the Gyan Prakash Committee which was set up to enquire into sugar shortage during 1993-94 season are, to have an integrated policy on sweetners-sugar, gur and khandsari, create a buffer stock of sugar; adopt. scientific forecasting and estimation methods; setting up of a Committee of Secretaries to monitor future shortage situations. It was also recommended that important decisions should be brought to the notice of PM and referred to CCP/CCEA wherever required under rules; International commodity markets should be closely monitored; a common Ministry with Civil Supplies and Food as separate Departments should be formed; Code to sort out differences and resolve conflicts between Secretaries, should be framed; Import and distribution of raw sugar through PDS, should be examined; Import of sugar on OGL with zero duty should also be reviewed.

A Public interest litigation Petition seeking to make public the Report of Gyan Prakash Committee is pending in the Supreme Court. However on 22.7.96 the Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed an order granting adjournment to the Government to enable it to lay in both houses of Parliament the report of the Gyan Prakash Committee leading to this report being made public. It is proposed to lay on the table of the Houses the Gyan Prakash Committee Report during the current Session of the Parliament.

Rise in Drug abuse Cases

3445. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press news-item captioned "Drug abuse cases on the rise in India" as reported in Statesmen dated 27th June, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the cases of drug abuse are increasing in the country and vorious authorities have failed to check the drug abuse; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the absence of any nation wide survey with regard to the extent of the drug abuse problem in the country, it is not possible to say that drug abuse is increasing. However, different studies undertaken indicate an increasing trend in drug abuse.

In order to counteract the increasing demand for dependence producing drugs, the Ministry of Welfare is implementing since 1985-86, a comprehensive Scheme